



unexpected

THE DIVINE ⇌ IN BETWEEN

ACTS 14:8-20

ongoing expectations when serving Jesus

1. Expect God's _____ in society

Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking. vv. 8-10

2. Expect _____ of God's work in society

And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. vv. 11-13

3. Expect _____ on truth in society

But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them. vv. 14-18

4. Expect _____ in society

But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. v. 19

5. Expect _____ in the Church

But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. v. 20

SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

“THIS SEGMENT OF LUKE’S narrative demonstrates that even the best ministers don’t always get it right. In fact, this is a rare instance in which we can learn from Paul’s example what *not* to do in ministry. I observe two glaring don’ts from this dark episode in the apostle’s first journey into the mission field.

First, don’t assume your audience knows much about the God of the Bible. ... Don’t assume people know much biblical truth. Ask questions. Listen carefully for gaps in their knowledge and for misinformation they might have picked up. Define your terms carefully. And follow up to be certain they understand what you have said.

Second, don’t underestimate the influence of one’s worldview—how someone understands the universe, how it came into being, how it operates, what purpose it has. ... The word ‘god’ means different things to different people. A Muslim will think of one being while a Buddhist will have a completely different idea in mind. Even within the United States, with its 400-year-old Judeo-Christian heritage, you will find a dwindling population who thinks of God as the Bible describes Him. Consequently, the once-effective statement ‘God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life’ may pose more problems than it solves.

Learn about the different worldviews people hold in the area you plan to evangelize. This will help you communicate effectively and decrease the potential for misunderstanding.”

CHARLES SWINDOLL

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Acts 14:8-20. The Lystrians reacted to the healing of the lame man like typical rural pagans of that time. What do you learn from this incident about the religious beliefs of those people, and the assumptions that Paul and Barnabas had to overcome?
2. Paul speaks here to Gentiles who know nothing about Old Testament history. How is his message to them different from what he said to a synagogue audience in 13:16-41?
3. What do you learn from Paul and Barnabas about interacting with those who are hostile to the gospel?
4. Which ongoing expectations for the Christian discussed by the preacher in the sermon were surprising to you? Which of these have you already experienced when sharing Christ?
5. What are some of the assumptions about God or gods, miracles, creation, morality, the nature of man, etc. that your friends believe? Which of those beliefs are barriers to understanding and believing the gospel? How can you help them rethink those assumptions?
6. Have you experienced the phenomenon that the closer you are to the Lord, the more intensely “missionary” you become toward unbelievers? If so, explain how. If not, what other things have crowded out your closeness to God and chocked off your focus of obedience to His Word?

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn’t based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God’s love for us. Here’s how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.”

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here’s a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you’d like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

BE, MAKE AND REACH IN KIDS MINISTRY

We’re asking for 100 people who want to make disciples and pour into the next generation to come join us in Kids Ministry! It’s two hours of the week that will change a kid’s life as they continue to hear and see the gospel in action. If your next step in being a disciple is saying yes to a morning in Kids Ministry, then sign up today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/grow.

GRIEFSHARE Our incredible counseling department, Soul Care, has a special resource for those walking through the grief of losing a loved one — a support group called Griefshare. Led by our Soul Care team, you’ll walk through practical and biblical encouragement beside people in similar seasons. We know God is near to the brokenhearted, and we’d love for you to see that in action. Learn more by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/grief.

YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAMS For all the kids in our church family, we have an amazing music program that gives them an opportunity to steward and build into their musical gifts! Taught by professional musicians and music teachers, each class brings the joy of making music and, most important, the gospel! Learn more today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/joyfulnoise.

AVENEW Whether you’re dating, engaged or newly married, there’s a spot for you at AVENEW this fall. This class walks with couples through topics every relationship encounters while pointing back to Jesus and what His Word says about relationships, communication, conflict and more. Find details today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/avenew.

WOMEN IN THE WORD: DAVID’S SONGS A place to connect, grow and learn, Women in the Word is a ministry designed for women of all ages to be in community around God’s Word! This fall, join the Women in the Word study on Psalms at www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw.

BAND OF BROTHERS: THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED Starting this fall, Band of Brothers will continue their journey through Exodus and witness the steadfast faithfulness God has for his people. To learn more about Band of Brothers, and this upcoming study, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/bob.

ENCOURAGED & EQUIPPED Our Women’s ministry has an incredible resource for you! Search for the Encouraged & Equipped podcast and hear stories from other CCBC women as they share about how the gospel has changed their lives. Find it today on your favorite podcast platforms.

LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU’D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.

